of our representatives in America who was in close touch with events at Washington :—

" It looks as if W. [Wilson] would in fact help us *pretty* well: almost all he can : but I think he will try not to be *technically* an ally. He's *An* " *agile* the most agile pussy-footer ever made, *pussy-footer* ' and when any serious decision is taken, always tries to unload the responsibility on to someone else, and has been doing so this time again. But it does seem as if the Huns had fairly driven him into a corner out of which he can't possibly wriggle!

Unpreparedness, except as far as money goes, is quite complete. . . ."

This picture, as indeed all the accounts we received at this time from Washington, showed the President as being aware that before long he would be compelled to take sides with the Allies, but holding on until he was finally driven to action. House records that on 24th March, 1917, Mr. Lansing, the Secretary of State, came to see him in desperation, saying that he—

" Has no idea what the President has in mind to say in his address to Congress when it convenes. He saw the President yesterday, and tried in several ways to get some line upon his thoughts, but failed."

And on 27th March, when House went to tackle Wilson at Washington, and make certain that he was going to announce a state of war with

" *What else can I do ?* " Germany—which by now virtually existed—the President cried despairingly, " What else can I do ? Is there anything else I can do ? "